

# **BILL OF RIGHTS FOR OHIO CRIME VICTIMS**

Our State, through the Constitution of the State of Ohio, is indeed fortunate to have a Bill of Rights for Crime Victims.



## **BALANCING THE SCALES OF JUSTICE**

If you have been a victim of any felonious crime or a victim of certain specified misdemeanor crimes, Ohio law gives you a variety of rights. Some of them are listed below:

- Right to receive information about your rights as a victim
- Right to appoint a representative
- Right to receive current information about the criminal investigation
- Right to be notified when the offender is arrested or released before trial
- Right to reasonable return or property
- Right to information from and meaningful discussions with the prosecutor
- Right to be free from intimidation
- Right to meaningful participation during the trial
- Right to make a statement at sentencing about the impact of the crime
- Right to participate in criminal proceedings without jeopardizing employment status
- Right to receive notice if violent offender escapes custody before trial or sentencing
- Right to receive information after sentencing
- Right to information and input about defendant's incarceration and parole status
- Rights after being victimized by a juvenile offender
- Right to request an anti-stalking protection order
- Special rights of victims of sexual abuse

Additional information regarding your rights as a crime victim can be obtained by calling the Victim/Witness Division of the Stark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office at 330-451-7452.

## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

**Police/Fire Emergency: 911  
Voice/TTY**

Stark County Jail	330-430-3850
VINE (Victim Info/Notification Everyday)	800-770-0192
Ohio Dept. Rehabilitations and Corrections - Victim Services (toll free)	888-842-8464
Crime Victim Compensation (toll free)	800-582-2877
Crime Victim Compensation - Stark County	330-451-7452

## **COURT RELATED NUMBERS**

Stark County Prosecutor's Office	330-451-7897
Victim/Witness Division	330-451-7452
Coordinator Victim Services, Adult Div.	330-451-7112
Coordinator Victim Services, Juvenile Div.	330-451-7621
Municipal Court Victim Advocates	
Alliance	330-451-7452
Canton	330-451-7452
Massillon	330-830-2865
Alliance City Prosecutor's Office	330-823-6610
Canton City Prosecutor's Office	330-489-3395
Massillon City Prosecutor's Office	330-830-1718
Juvenile Court	330-451-7415
Adult Probation Department	330-451-7836

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULT REFERRAL NUMBERS**

Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter	330-823-7223
Alliance Area Rape Crisis Center	330-821-RAPE
American Red Cross Rape Crisis Center	330-451-1111
Canton Domestic Violence Information Line	330-453-SAFE
Crisis Intervention Center	330-452-6000
Community Legal Aid Services	330-456-8361
Stark County Dept. of Job & Family Services	330-452-4661
The Children's Network of Stark County	330-451-1700
The Children's Network CAC of Stark County	

## **OTHER**

United Way Information and Referral	330-455-4636
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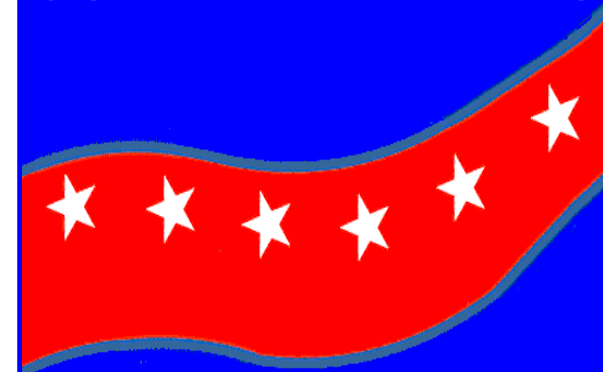
**"say no  
to drugs."**

# **INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME**



## **VICTIM ASSISTANCE**

**JOHN D. FERRERO**



***Prosecuting Attorney  
Stark County, Ohio***

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office  
Victim/Witness Division  
Stark County Office Building  
110 Central Plaza South Suite 510  
Canton, Ohio 44702  
330-451-7897

[www.prosecutor.co.stark.oh.us](http://www.prosecutor.co.stark.oh.us)

**A MESSAGE FROM**  
**Stark County Prosecuting Attorney**  
**John D. Ferrero**

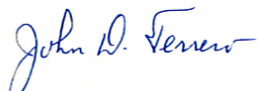
Victims in Stark County can be assured that our staff will treat them with dignity and respect and that their RIGHTS as crime victims will be honored.

In November of 1994, the people of our state voted in a Bill of Rights for Ohio Crime Victims. My staff is dedicated to seeing that these RIGHTS are met for those crime victims whose cases enter the judicial process and to making every attempt to lessen the effects of any trauma encountered as a result of a crime.

The Victim/Witness Division of this office began in 1975, making it the oldest Prosecutor-based Victim Assistance program in the State of Ohio. During my tenure in office, it has been my pleasure to ensure that the services of this program have continued to grow and flourish. A full range of services are now available from well-trained staff and volunteers in Stark County's three Municipal Courts, Juvenile Court and the Court of Common Pleas. Advocates provide referrals for immediate assistance, court support, notification of case court dates, education regarding the criminal justice process and victims' rights. Specialized programming has been implemented for cases of child abuse, domestic violence and for survivors of homicide victims.

This brochure has been designed as an aid to crime victims. Staff in the Victim/Witness Division of this office are also available to personally help you Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the numbers printed on the back should you need assistance.

Sincerely,

  
John D. Ferrero



**SERVICES OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE**

If you have become a victim or witness of a crime in Stark County, Ohio, you are entitled to assistance from the Victim/Witness Division of the Stark County Prosecutor's Office. Becoming involved in a crime can be a very confusing and frustrating time for you and/or your family members so the help you receive will be practical, immediate and available to you whether or not the offender has been caught. The following is a list of some of the services of our programs:

- Contact victims of crime to determine needs.
- Advise on the replacement of stolen credit cards, I.D. cards and driver's license.
- Provide referrals for emergency services.
- Provide crisis counseling and intervention for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors.
- Assist victims with completing Victim Impact Statements.
- Provide court support (accompaniment).
- Notify victims of case status and court hearing dates.
- Provide victims with Victims of Crime Compensation forms and attorney referrals.
- Provide special programming for child abuse victims.
- Provide services for those requesting interpreters or special needs assistance for court hearings.

**The Ohio VINE Service**

VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) is a toll free hotline service which gives interested victims and/or family members and concerned citizens an additional opportunity to be informed about vital custody and court event information regarding an inmate in any of Ohio's county jails or state prisons 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Callers may also register, via a touch-tone phone, to receive automatic telephone notification if the defendant is released, transferred, escapes or for upcoming court events. A telephone number and PIN number must be provided for notification registration.

For more information contact VINE services at:  
1-800-770-0192  
TTY 1-866-847-1298  
[www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)

**OHIO VICTIMS of CRIME**  
**COMPENSATION PROGRAM**  
**1-800-582-2877 (toll free)**

In 1976, the Ohio Legislature created the Victims of Crime Compensation Program to provide reimbursement for certain out-of-pocket expenses which crime victims may incur. The program is administered by the Ohio Attorney General's Office. See crime victims compensation guidelines below:

**Who may be eligible to receive a payment:**

- Those injured during a violent crime.
- Dependents of people killed in crimes.
- Anyone responsible for a crime victim's finances, such as a parent or guardian.

**Who cannot receive a payment:**

- Anyone convicted of a felony offense within 10 years before the crime or while the compensation application is pending.
- Anyone convicted of child endangering or domestic violence within 10 years before the crime or while the compensation application is pending.
- Anyone who engaged in misconduct that caused or contributed to the injuries.

**Payments can cover:**

- Medical and related expenses.
- Counseling for immediate family members of victims of homicide, sexual assault or domestic violence.
- Wages lost because of the crime.
- Crime scene cleanup for personal security.
- The cost to replace items taken as evidence.
- Lost wages and travel expenses for family members of a deceased victim to attend court proceedings.
- Financial support for dependents of a deceased victim.
- Funeral and burial expenses.

Total payments are limited to \$50,000 and payments cannot be made for pain and suffering or for stolen, damaged or lost property.

The attorney general's office will not pay victims for expenses that can be covered by other sources, such as insurance.

Make sure to report the crime to law enforcement within 72 hours of the crime and to file an application for payment within two years.

Apply for Victims Compensation Online at:  
[www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov)